

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council

Meeting Number 114 (9-11)

September 12, 2011

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the Joppatowne High School beginning at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meeting Number 114 was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11 and the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were Paula Mullis, Vincent Rabenau, Gloria Moon, Ron Sollod, Jim Thompson, Yvonne Baldwin, JoAnn M. Macdonald, and Doris Carey. Paula Mullis welcomed all community members and requested council members to introduce themselves. The chair acknowledged special guests: Denise Lynch, Department of Planning & Zoning; Patricia Gonzalez, Office of County Executive; and Captain Chris Swain, Sheriff's Office/Community Policing. Because there was not a quorum in June, minutes from May were approved. Doris Carey motioned and Ron Sollod seconded that the May 2 minutes be approved.

The Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Captain Chris Swain stated that there was no report from the Sheriff's Office. He said that the new building is progressing well. The records management system is being revamped at this time. He said that he has a difficult time recalling any problems in the Joppa/Joppatowne communities, which is a good thing. Statements were made from council members and community members to Captain Swain concerning various reported incidents such as, solicitors in the neighborhoods without a license. It was noted that if there is no permit, no one is allowed to solicit in the county. It was suggested that the message about soliciting get out to the community through media blast. Captain Swain said that the new building is slated to open in January.

Presentation - Department of Planning & Zoning by Denise Lynch

Denise Lynch stated that illegal signs are creating traffic hazards and are blight on the community. The Department of Planning & Zoning is asking for volunteers to commit to removing signs on rights of way and median strips. However, there will be guidelines that volunteers follow before removing signs. To learn the guidelines, volunteers are asked to call Denise's office. This program will be implemented later this fall. State law HB 289, Section 8-605, prohibits a person without authorization from the State Highway Administration from placing a sign within the right-of-way of a State highway. The

Department of Planning & Zoning will try to have an outreach program so that politicians as well as the community will know the rules and regulations for all signs. The sign program will go into effect this fall. There will be a press release, and local councils will be notified when the program starts. Denise Lynch was thanked by Paula Mullis for her presentation.

Office of County Executive – Patricia Gonzalez

Patricia Gonzalez brought a 2011-2012 Resource Guide, which is published as a community service by the Department of Community Services and the Commission for Women. She also brought *Enviro News* which is a newsletter for environmental programs in Harford County. She also answered questions from the council and community members.

Board of Education Update. (No report given).

County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie. Councilman Guthrie was attending a conference.

Joppa/Joppatowne/Edgewood Independence Day Parade – Sue Hesselton

Sue Heselton said that the Independence Day Parade was very successful. She said she only had two weeks to put the parade together. The parade made money. The amount made was \$12, 644. After expenses, the parade committee cleared \$10,544.41. The parade went off like clock work. The parade will be held next year on July 1 in Joppatowne. There is no set route at this point. She will email copies of the parade report next month. As of May 2011, the Joppa/Edgewood Parade Committee has been incorporated. Next year Joppa will be 300 years old. She said this could possibly be a theme of next year's parade. More information will be shared with the council in the future. Sue was thanked for her presentation by the chair.

Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community

Vincent Rabenau said that he is still trying to get a petition against Walmart which plans to build a new store in Abingdon. Ron Sollod said that Walmart owns the property where the new store is to be built. He also said that the present Walmart store will become a Bass Pro Shop. Ron discussed the number of

calls received since our last meeting. He said that during the hurricane, there was not a lot of damage in this area. There are lots of activities going on at the firehouse during the month. He suggested that batteries be changed in smoke alarms and CO alarms. People should also check flues and roofs; safety is foremost. Free CPR training for the public will be conducted at JMVFC, dates TBD. Call the fire house (410-676-0888) to schedule the training; leave name and phone contact.

Gloria Moon briefly discussed the traffic impact study. She said it is not good enough for people who live here. She also shared information concerning the Joppa site for a new recycling station. She said Harford County bought the former Plecker's World of Golf at 814 Philadelphia Boulevard to use for a permanent recycling transfer station. It is a concern that the County is proposing to build a solid waste station in the Joppa community. Gloria suggested that information would be drafted to send to the community and ask them to come to the October 3 meeting.

JoAnn Macdonald shared information concerning letters sent to Col Ortiz, County Executive David Craig and others concerning the waste incinerator project. She plans to get more information out to the community concerning issues discussed at the meeting.

Doris Carey mentioned the groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion and renovation of the HCC's Susquehanna Center. The new facility will house a fitness center, multipurpose gymnasium, updated swimming pool and rooms for dance, group fitness and a variety of other physical activities. The focal point will be a 3,200 seat arena that will serve all types of events for the campus and community to enjoy.

Jim Thompson said he will be stepping down from the Council because of job security. He will continue to come to council meetings.

Gloria Moon motioned and Ron Sollod seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Minutes by Doris Carey